

39: Gerstie E Raitt

C,Q-4,5

(1952-1972) 1974

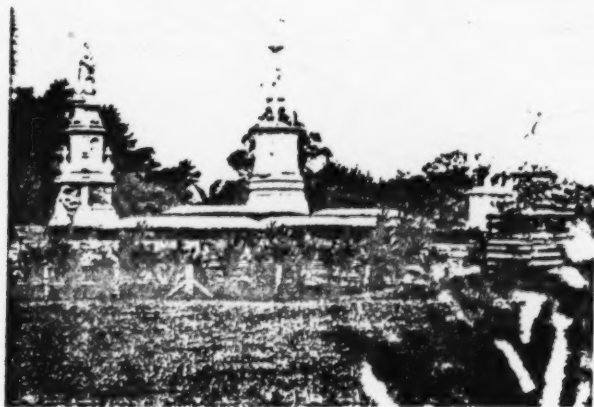
OU9 Tonga OU9

764
766
349
211
178



Although "langi" are no longer used as royal burial places, they remain as memorials to Tonga's past, as in the photo above of the *langi* called "Tau'atonga" in Mu'a. The Royal Tombs (below), located in Nuku'alofa, have been the burial place of Tonga's Royal Family since 1893.

'Oku 'ikai kei ngaue'aki he ngaahi 'aho ni e langi hange ko e "Langi Tau'atonga" ko ia 'i Mu'a, a ia oku ha 'i he ta 'i 'olunga. Ko Mala'e Kula 'i Nuku'alofa (ta 'i 'alo)—ko e telio'anga ia 'o ha a tu'i talu mei he 1893.



[p. 33]

114]

[1777]
Resolution AND Discovery

[May

122 before us, I hauled into a bay which lays between the South end of
133 Lefooga and the North end of Ooleva, and there anchored in 17
fathom water, the bottom sand with here and there rock. The Dis-
covery did not get to an anchor till sunset, she touched upon one of
the Shoals, but backed off again without receiving any damage.

312 As soon as we had anchored I sent Mr Bligh to Sound the bay in
which we lay and my self accompanied by Mr Gore, landed on the
Southe[r]n part of Lefooga to examine the Country and look for
fresh water, not that we wanted any having filled all our casks at the
last place, but had been told that at this part of the island was some
better than any we had met with. This will not be the only time I
shall have to remark that these people do not know what good Water
is. We were conducted to two wells and found the Water bad in both
349 and the Natives told us they had no better.¹ Near the South end of
223 the Island and on the West side, we met with a artificial Mount,
that had been raised in remote times, as large trees &c^a were growing
upon it. I judged it to be about Forty feet high and the Diameter of
its summit measured fifty.^a At the foot of this Mount stood a stone
which must have been hewn out of Coral rock, it was 4 feet broad 2½
thick and 14 high, and we were told by the Natives present that not
above half its length was above ground. They called it Tangata
349 (Man) or Arekee (King) and told us that it was set up and the Mount
211 raised by some of their fore Fathers in memory of one of their Kings,
122 but how long sence they could not tell.^a Night coming on we returned
133 on board, and at the same time Mr Bligh from sounding the bay, in
which he found from 14 to 20 fathoms water, the bottom for the most

¹ Natives of coral islands did not feel the need of water for drinking, and what they had
was good enough for fresh-water washing. Hence the difference of opinion between
[212] Tongans and Cook about what was 'good' water. Cook's men followed the native example,
e.g. with the muddy and brackish fluid at Nomuka—but the milk of the coconuts in a
great measure made up for the badness of it; as they were so plentiful that we seldom drank
any thing else'.—Gilbert.

^a 'In many of our walks about this Island we saw more numerous & extensive planta-
tions than at Anamocka, & in better order; yet towards the sea side particularly to the
Eastward, the country is still waste owing perhaps to its being a sandy soil; an artificial
mount rais'd to a considerable height with an arbour of trees surrounding a green plot
attract'd our notice; we were busy in forming conjectures as to the use of this spot, when we
learn'd that it was only a decoy for Pidgeons, being inticed thither by its shade & coolness,
& likely by the natives putting some thing they like, whilst they hide themselves among the
shrubs, & with a net throw over & catch them.'—King, 21 May. This artificial mount has
now crumbled away, and Lifuka is virtually flat from one end to the other. *Sinhalups* was
the name given to the mount where wild pigeons (*lups*) were snared. As Uoleva, the next
island south, had a large number of pigeon mounds, and seems to have been a favourite
spot for the chiefly sport, this mound may quite likely have belonged to the same series.

^b The great stone no longer exists, except possibly underground. There are much smaller
monumental stones extant, some built into *langi*, and there are said to be two monoliths
as far away from Lifuka as Niuatoputapu, important enough to have names. But the only
familiar thing of the sort is the great trilithon called Ha'amonga 'a Maui, at Hahake near
Kolonga on Tongatapu, which many date from as early as the eleventh century.

Ha'ateiho is the place where three London Missionary Society missionaries were killed in 1799. At Bea may be seen the spot where Captain Croker was killed and three naval guns were captured in 1840. 648
[797]

There is a good example of an old fort in fair preservation at Hule, near Nukunuku. The most remarkable of the numerous trenches of the island is known as the Keli'a-Belchake, which extends from Vaotu'u to Nukunuku, Te'ekiu, Masilamea, and back to the southern coast at Fahefa; tradition states that this was actually dug in a single night during a war between the men of Hahake and those of Hihifo led by Vaha'i, at some undetermined time probably in the early 19th century. The name of a hamlet, 'Umutagata, also in the western district, recalls a rare instance of human cremation and cannibalism. 712
[173]
103
266
764

At Kolovai there is the enclosure where the former Tu'i Kanokubolu were invested with office; a piece of the koka tree under which these kings sat has been placed in the modern coronation chair at Nuku'alofa. The tombs of these kings are also at Kolovai. This village is well-known to tourists as a sanctuary for great numbers of flying-foxes. 643
[764]
136

Houma, on the south-west coast, is noted for the blow-holes which extend along the cliffs for a considerable distance. 133

In the extreme north-west of the island, at Ha'atafu, a monument stands to mark the landing-place of the first Wesleyan missionaries (1826). Tasman in 1643 and Cook in 1773 also landed nearby. 648
[211]

Navigation lights now stand at Ha'atafu, Nuku'alofa and Malino'a, an island north of Nuku'alofa. The quarantine station is situated at Makaha'a, another island off Nuku'alofa. 502
504

Ancient stone-quarries are to be seen at Motutabu and Bagaimotu, small islands not far from Nuku'alofa. It seems more than probable that the stones used in the great tombs (lagi) at Mu'a and elsewhere were cut at these places, and certainly not at Uvea and other distant islands to which old native traditions refer. 316
174

HA'ABAI. It is considered that this name is derived from Savai'i, the island in Samoa from which the ancient Tongans probably came. Ha'abai is a scattered archipelago of small islands, the total area of which is less than that of 'Eua, if the uninhabited volcanic islands of Tofua and Kao are excluded. Yet these islets support a population of 6,410, most of whom have small tax-allotments or none at all, and despite the difficulties of getting a livelihood—difficulties which hurricanes and droughts have increased in recent years—the number of people who have gone to take up land in Togatabu and Vava'u is not considerable. The people of Ha'abai have always been renowned as skilful navigators and fishermen. 103
133
131
162
311
505
226

The Governor of Ha'abai resides at Bagai, Lifuka, which was also the boyhood home and always the favourite residence of Tubou I. Cook was entertained at a great festival and a plot was made against his life on this island in 1777. Mariner's vessel, the "Port-au-Prince," was also attacked here, and the cemetery of the murdered sailors is at Koulo, Lifuka. 634
175
648

Uoleva, now uninhabited, has a remarkable number of pigeon-mounds used by chiefs in ancient times, also an old sunken road of unknown use extending through the island. 172